

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
International Application No. PCT/DE00/01989

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (Substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)):

the description, pages

1-5 as originally filed

the claims, Nos.

1-11 as originally filed

the drawings, sheets/fig.

1/2-2/2 as originally filed

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to
novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

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1. STATEMENT

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-11	YES
	Claims -	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims 1-11	YES
	Claims -	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims 1-11	YES
	Claims -	No

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2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

See Supplementary Page.

VII. Specific shortcomings of the international application

1. Specific published documents (Rule 70.10)

and/or

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

See Supplementary Page.

VIII. Specific comments on the international application

The following comments can be made regarding the clarity of the patent claims, the description and the drawings or the question of whether the claims are fully supported by the description:

See Supplementary Page.

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SUPPLEMENTARY PAGE
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Re Point V:

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

V.1. Related art

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: German Patent Application 19523262 A1 (cited by the applicant)

V.2. Novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability of the object of independent Claim 1

1. Document D1 is regarded as the most proximate art with respect to the object of Claim 1. It discloses (the notation in parentheses refers to this document):
 - a) a light-sensitive sensor unit (column 10, lines 21 and 22), which includes
 - b) at least two light-sensitive sensors (column 10, lines 23 and 33),
 - c) for which light guide elements are provided (Fig. 2, nos 20 and 40),
 - d) which have a predeterminable reception characteristic (columns 2 and 3, lines 63 and 3),
 - e) where at least one first sensor detects the global lighting conditions (column 2, lines 63-68),
 - f) and at least one second sensor detects the lighting conditions in predetermined directions (column 3, lines 1 through 8).

Therefore, the object of Claim 1 differs from this known device in that

- g) the light guide elements provided for the sensors are joined in one piece to form a light guide body.

The object of Claim 1 is thus novel (Article 33(2) PCT).

- 2. The object to be achieved with the present invention can thus be regarded as creating a simple, compact, favorable, easy-to-assemble and reliable light sensor device for motor vehicles.
- 3. The method of achieving this object proposed in Claim 1 of the present patent application has inventive merit (Article 33(3) PCT), because it is not known from the related art nor is it derivable therefrom.
- 4. The object of Claim 1 can thus be used or manufactured in the field of automotive engineering. It thus has industrial applicability in the sense of Article 33(4) of the PCT.

V.3. Novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability of the objects of dependent Claims 2 through 11

- 1. Claims 2 through 11 are dependent on Claim 1 and thus also meet the PCT requirements with regard to novelty and inventive step.
- 2. The objects of these claims also have industrial applicability (Article 33(4) PCT).

Re Point VI: Specific documents cited

- 1. German Patent Application 19893273 A which was introduced in the Search Report must actually be regarded as a "P

document," i.e., it does not belong to the related art in the sense of Rule 64.1 PCT.

Re Point VIII: Specific comments on the international application

1. It should be pointed out that according to paragraph 4.6, chapter III, part C of the Guidelines for Examination in the European Patent Office, terms such as "in particular," "preferably" or "for example" do not cause any restriction on the scope of protection of the patent claim, i.e., the feature which follows after such an expression must be regarded as entirely optional (see Claim 1, for example).